

CONTEXT

*Design Thinking*, Complexity Labs, January 4, 2015, 8:11

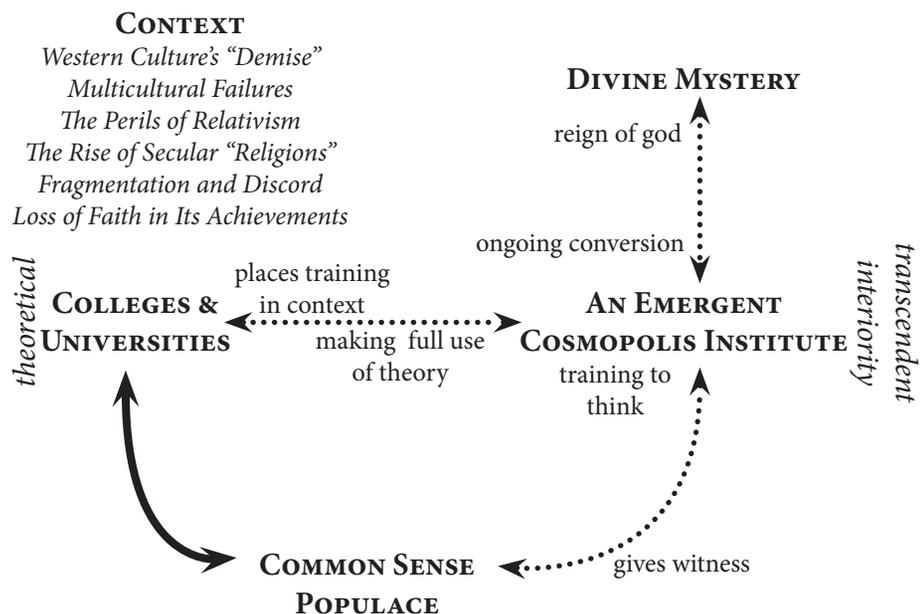
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WrdSkqRypsg&t=9s&list=PLo1Jq23H\\_s5UNFjj6uJof2A1c1PtvHmWu&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WrdSkqRypsg&t=9s&list=PLo1Jq23H_s5UNFjj6uJof2A1c1PtvHmWu&index=2)

*An Emergent Cosmopolis*

**Our project fits into a design rather than academic model.** This little video stresses a number of key features that may help in understanding what we are up to in our weekly sessions. This design model sets out four primary stages in any design process where complex non-linear systems, end-user experience, systems thinking, iterative prototyping, and stakeholder feedback are essential to working in an interdisciplinary [transdisciplinary for us] fashion. The suggested stages are: research, ideate, prototype, and testing; they do not necessarily follow a linear path.

**This process starts with research into understanding the problem within which an emergent cosmopolis may be a viable solution, i.e., the context.** So, what is the context for an emergent cosmopolis? Our core insight took place on March 1st, 2017, with a “positioning” statement (details may be found on [www.sabotshot.ca](http://www.sabotshot.ca) in a folder marked “A Cosmopolis Institute: Positioning”).

**In general, a Cosmopolis Institute would be an educational institute** that works in conjunction with universities as moderator and mediator between a common sense populace, a theoretical university, and the reality of a Divine Mystery. Its members would be dedicated to ongoing conversion at the reflective level of deciding, to actualizing Lonergan’s notion of a cosmopolis, and to clarifying practices using a transdisciplinary and transcendental approach to human understanding.



**Our judgments on current affairs is conditional at best.** The only reasonable firm understanding of our times will be worked out by historians quite some time in the future. In fact, the only contemporary collective that could make such judgments with a reasonable chance of success would be a Cosmopolis Institute. Only such a group dedicated to ongoing conversion and having a methodological control over meaning could achieve such wisdom when it comes to human affairs within the reality of a Divine Mystery.

**If you know that your judgments are conditional**, then there’s an innate drive to make them better—at least if the desire to know is unrestricted by various forms of bias and scotosis. If the deep root causes lay in the foundational self long before consciousness seeks to do its work, then the morally converted will seek the source of error within themselves. Which is better, to lose face or to avoid creating a disaster?

**There are many errors that can creep in** when estimating scope and constraints on rational action, in delineating a prognosis or working out the root problem(s) via a diagnosis, or mis-evaluating the situation at hand. But the really core blind spots are generated at the foundational level long before reason enters the scene and before working themselves down through doctrines, systematics, and communications.

**Ultimately, when seeking to determine whether some statement is true the appeal must be made to the person’s foundational stance**, his or her very self that is not a matter of will but a matter of being in the world. After all, a person cannot will to be in love; all he or she can do is respond should it occur. This applies especially to any religious conversion, i.e., falling in love with the Divine Mystery.

**The somewhat terrifying reality** is that one can only recognize the distortions in another’s core self if one is already relatively free of such distortions. In other words, to recognize authenticity in another requires that one be authentic oneself—not in any absolute sense but in being responsive to the transcendental injunctions. Like people recognize themselves at a very basic pre-conscious level. For example, religious people recognize other religious people, whether or not they agree with them.

**There’s another way of identifying the authenticity of another**, and that is through the opposite—people who have chose the path of self-godhood, dominance, and the application of lies to maintain positions of power know full well those who might oppose them. By their fruits you will know them, or at least like will recognize like. For there is a value choice, a value difference, between those seeking to follow the dynamic nature of their own coming to know and those who seek their own privilege and status above all else.

**To those on the path to power and dominance**, the lightest touch of the Spirit is experienced as the deepest pain; to those on the path toward the Divine Mystery, the harshest touch of the Spirit is experienced as gentle and caring. Over time, there emerges a clear dialectic between life-affirming sacredness and life-denying aggressive domination that constitutes an evaluative tools for understanding the foundational stance of others, for their actions betray who they really are even when gas-lighting and deceit are the order of the day.